



and inventory information comprising:

A1 a host site connected to at least one user computer terminal via an on-line interconnection, said host site comprising a database for storing the user billing and inventory information, and a processor terminal connected to the on-line interconnection for receiving user report requests and sending reports created in response to the received requests and additional on-line user input, wherein said processor terminal comprises:

a view manager arranged to generate a set of function commands which can be selectively launched by user input to[:] graphically display a list of available views each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a database, create a new view and report, and edit a view and report; and

a data manager arranged to allow input of user defined data, and user generated and maintained data for insertion into a requested report.

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A2 8. (Amended) A method for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information in response to an inquiry from a user computer terminal via an on-line connection, said method comprising:

generating a graphical user interface for on-line access by the user, said graphical user interface providing a set of function commands which can be selectively launched to[:] graphically display a list of available views each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a database, create a new view and report, edit a view and report, and allow input of user defined data, and user generated and maintained data to be inserted into a report;

creating a report based on user responses to the set of commands; and
sending the created report to the user terminal via the on-line connection.

Remarks

By this paper, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to place the claims in better form, and to otherwise clarify the claimed invention. No claims have been canceled.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand et al. (U.S. 5,710,900, hereinafter "Anand '900") in view

of Peters et al. (U.S. 5,884,284, hereinafter "Peters"); and claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand '900 in view of Peters, and in further view of Melchione et al. (US 5,930,764, hereinafter "Melchione"). Both of these rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration requested in view of the following remarks.

Anand '900 discloses an arrangement for generating a report using data stored in a database. The arrangement does not require the user to understand or interpret the data itself. A GUI allows a user to select and specify parameters for the report, display the report, print the report, and save the report. An application program allows a user to define predetermined data types, as well as relationships between the data types. As acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action, Anand '900 fails to provide any teaching of generating an on-line report containing billing and inventory data.

In addition, Applicants point out that the report generating arrangement of Anand '900 fails to provide any teaching or suggestion that a user can input data generated and maintained by the user for inclusion within a report. As noted above, while Anand '900 allows a user to define predetermined data types and associations, there is no arrangement that allows a user to specify report of data external to the database. Only Applicants' claims 1 and 8, as amended above, provide an arrangement that allows a user to customize an on-line billing and inventory report to include externally maintained data, i.e., non-database data. Support for this amendment can be found on page 11, lines 14-28 of Applicants' originally filed specification.

Peters does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies in the teachings of Anand '990. More specifically, Peters discloses a computerized system for managing telecommunication user accounts. The system creates, maintains, processes and analyzes data regarding individual users and their telecommunication services. The purpose of the Peters system is to integrate reporting of data maintained in various system databases. However, as with Anand '900, Peters provides no suggestion that a report generated from billing and inventory data stored in a database can be augmented under user control with externally maintained data. Only Applicants' claimed invention provides a truly flexible billing and

inventory on-line report generating arrangement. As such, Applicants contend that claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the combination of Anand '900 and Peters.

Regarding claims 2-7 and 9-12, without conceding the Examiner's position, Applicants contend these claims are allowable due to their respective dependency from claim 1 or 8.

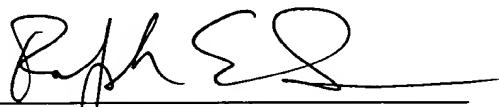
Applicants have reviewed the remaining references made of record but not relied upon, and are of the position that none of the references overcome the above-noted deficiencies in the combination of Anand '900, Peters, and Melchione, whether taken singularly or in combination. From the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-12 are allowable over the references of record in this application, and reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously solicited.

A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed to cover the Petition fee associated with the one month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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